



Thursday
April 18, 1996

Part VII

Postal Service

39 CFR Part 111

Experimental First-Class and Priority Mail
Small Parcel Automation Rate Category
Implementation Standards; Changes in
Domestic Mail Classifications and Rates;
Final Rule and Notice

POSTAL SERVICE**39 CFR Part 111****Experimental First-Class and Priority Mail Small Parcel Automation Rate Category; Implementation Standards****AGENCY:** Postal Service.**ACTION:** Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule sets forth the Domestic Mail Manual (DMM) standards adopted by the Postal Service to implement the Decision of the Governors of the United States Postal Service on the Recommended Decision of the Postal Rate Commission on the Experimental First-Class and Priority Mail Small Parcel Automation Rate Category, Docket No. MC96-1.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 28, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Leo F. Raymond, (202) 268-5199, or Susan Duchek, (202) 268-2990.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 19, 1995, pursuant to its authority under 39 U.S.C. 3621, et seq., the Postal Service filed with the Postal Rate Commission (PRC) a request for a recommended decision on an experimental rate category for specific types of nonpresorted barcoded First-Class and Priority Mail. The PRC designated the filing as Docket No. MC96-1. The PRC published a notice of the filing, with a description of the Postal Service's proposals, on December 27, 1995, in the Federal Register (60 FR 66999-67000).

The Postal Service's Request to the PRC proposed that the Postal Service be permitted to establish automation rate categories and 4-cent-per-piece discounts for certain nonpresorted bulk barcoded First-Class and Priority Mail small parcels entered for outgoing primary distribution at three test sites on a 2-year experimental basis. Eligible parcels would be processed on small parcel and bundle sorters (SPBSs) equipped with barcode scanners. Currently, such SPBSs are installed at only three postal facilities: the Southeastern, PA, Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC); the Philadelphia, PA, Airport Mail Center (AMC); and the St. Petersburg, FL, P&DC. These facilities will be the test sites for the experiment.

A mailer wishing to prepare test mailings will be required to submit a written application to the Manager, Customer Mail Preparation, USPS Headquarters, at least 14 days before the earliest requested mailing date. The application must describe the mailpieces to be presented; preparation level and containerization mode (as

applicable); typical daily and annual volumes and a schedule of mailings; deposit sites for mailings; postage payment method; sites of any corresponding authorizations for precanceled stamps, postage meters, or permit imprints. The mailer must also submit enough sample barcoded parcels to the plant manager of the test site where pieces are to be processed so that the accuracy and readability of the barcodes can be determined. If the barcodes on the submitted parcels are found accurate, correctly prepared, and readable, mailings may begin when approved by the Manager, Customer Mail Preparation, subject to the conditions in the authorization letter. The complete standards for participation are set forth in the DMM revision that follows.

The goals of the Postal Service in requesting and conducting the experiment are: (1) To determine whether it is feasible to offer an automation discount for nonpresorted barcoded First-Class and Priority Mail small parcels; (2) to gauge mailer interest and acceptance of this type of discount; and (3) to confirm that the use of a barcode scanner with an SPBS provides significant sortation quality and productivity enhancements when comparing the automated processing of nonpresorted barcoded small parcels with the manual keying of the same or similar pieces. The 4-cent discount is based on the estimated cost difference between keying a nonbarcoded parcel and scanning a barcoded parcel.

Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3624, the PRC on March 13, 1996, issued to the Governors of the Postal Service its Recommended Decision on the Postal Service's Request. The PRC recommendation substantially followed the mail classification structure and rates requested by the Postal Service. After reviewing the PRC's Recommended Decision and its consequences for the Postal Service and postal customers, the Governors, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3625, acted on the PRC's recommendations on April 1, 1996. Decision of the Governors of the United States Postal Service on the Recommended Decision of the Postal Rate Commission on the Experimental First-Class and Priority Mail Small Parcel Automation Rate Category, Docket No. MC96-1. The Governors determined to approve the PRC's recommendations, and the Board of Governors set an implementation date of April 28, 1996, for those rate and classification changes to take effect. A notice announcing the Governors' Decision and the final Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and Rate

Schedule changes is published elsewhere in this issue of the Federal Register.

This final rule contains the DMM standards adopted by the Postal Service to implement the Governors' decision. Those standards take effect April 28, 1996. The final rule reflects the criteria presented by the Postal Service in its pleadings before the PRC. As described above, the Postal Service is limiting this experimental rate category to those pieces of nonpresorted First-Class and Priority Mail that are outside the parameters of existing automation (i.e., letter and flat sorting machines equipped with barcode readers). Moreover, because this experiment focuses on the value of the mailer's worksharing effort not in presorting the mail but in barcoding the mail, the final rule excludes pieces prepared for a presort discount from concurrent eligibility for an automation discount.

The final rule also presents the technical standards for the barcode formats readable by the automated equipment on which mail will be processed during this experiment. Although these standards have not previously been published in the DMM, they are based on existing industry standards and have been used in nonpostal applications for some time. Therefore, the Postal Service finds no need to solicit comment on those standards or to delay implementation of this experiment pending their evaluation.

List of Subjects in 39 CFR Part 111

Postal Service.

For the reasons discussed above, the Postal Service hereby adopts the following amendments to the Domestic Mail Manual, which is incorporated by reference in the Code of Federal Regulations (see 39 CFR part 111).

PART 111—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for 39 CFR part 111 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. 552(a); 39 U.S.C. 101, 401, 403, 404, 3001-3011, 3201-3219, 3403-3406, 3621, 3626, 5001.

2. Add new G090 to the Domestic Mail Manual as follows:

G GENERAL INFORMATION

* * * * *

G090 Experimental Classifications and Rates**G091 Barcoded Small Parcels****1.0 BASIC ELIGIBILITY****1.1 Applicability**

The standards in G091 apply to pieces claimed at the experimental automation rates for First-Class and Priority Mail small parcels. All pieces in an automation rate small parcel mailing under G091 must:

a. Meet the basic standards for First-Class Mail and Priority Mail in E110 and E120, respectively, and the specific standards in 2.0 through 7.0.

b. Be part of a single mailing of at least 50 pieces of either First-Class Mail or Priority Mail, eligible for and claimed at the automation rate for small parcels. The same mailing may not contain both First-Class and Priority Mail pieces.

c. Meet the applicable physical standards in 2.0.

d. Bear a delivery address that includes the correct ZIP Code or ZIP+4 code.

e. Meet the address quality and coding standards in 4.0, A800, and A950.

f. Bear an accurate barcode meeting the standards in 3.0.

g. Be marked and prepared as specified in 5.0.

h. Meet the documentation and postage payment standards in 6.0 and P012.

i. Be deposited at a post office served by one of the test sites designated in 1.4.

1.2 Rate Application

Each piece in an automation small parcel rate mailing qualifies for the corresponding single-piece First-Class or single-piece Priority Mail rate shown in 7.0.

1.3 Participation in Test

Participation in the test is subject to these conditions:

a. A mailer wishing to participate in preparing test mailings under G091 must submit a written application to the Customer Mail Preparation manager (for address, see G043) at least 14 days before the earliest requested mailing date. The application must describe the mailpieces to be presented; preparation level and containerization mode (as applicable); typical daily and annual volumes and a schedule of mailings; deposit sites for mailings; postage payment method; sites of any corresponding authorizations for precanceled stamps, postage meters, or permit imprints. The mailer must also submit sample barcoded parcels to the plant manager of the test site where

pieces are to be processed so that the accuracy and readability of the barcodes can be determined; the plant manager will specify the sample size. The mailer is notified of any corrective action.

b. If the barcodes on the submitted parcels are found accurate, correctly prepared, and readable, mailings may begin when approved by the Customer Mail Preparation manager, subject to the conditions in the authorization letter; no further notice is required except as specified under 6.0.

c. An authorization is subject to amendment on 10 days' written notice to the mailer and ends automatically at the end of the test period (April 28, 1998). The mailer may end participation on 10 days' written notice to the Customer Mail Preparation manager. The USPS may terminate an authorization on 10 days' written notice to the mailer for failing to meet the eligibility standards in G091 or in accordance with a material change in the terms and conditions of the experimental classification. The mailer may file a written appeal of a denied application or revoked authorization, within 30 days of receipt of the notice of denial or revocation, with the Marketing Systems vice president (for address, see G043), who issues the final agency decision.

1.4 Test Sites

As specified in the authorization letter, mail prepared under G091 must be entered at a post office for which outgoing primary distribution is performed as follows:

a. For Priority Mail, at either the St. Petersburg, FL, Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC) (3-digit ZIP Code area 337 and 5-digit ZIP Codes 33504, 34634, 34635, 34640–34649, and 34664–34666) or the Philadelphia, PA, Airport Mail Center (080–084, 189–194, and 197–199).

b. For First-Class Mail, at either the St. Petersburg, FL, P&DC (3-digit ZIP Code area 337 and 5-digit ZIP Codes 33504, 34634, 34635, 34640–34649, and 34664–34666) or the Southeastern, PA, P&DC (3-digit ZIP Code areas 189, 193, and 194).

2.0 PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS**2.1 Automation Compatibility**

Only pieces that do not meet the dimensional and other physical standards in C810 or C820 may be claimed at the automation small parcel rates, subject to 2.2 and 2.3. Pieces must not have loose string, packaging material, or other protrusions that might snag or jam in processing equipment or impede or damage the mail or mail

processing equipment. Pieces may not be prepared in envelopes or as unenclosed bound or unbound pages. Pieces may be prepared in padded mailing envelopes or in paper or plastic containers if the wrapper and dunnage can protect the contents during automated processing.

2.2 Measurement

The dimensions of an irregularly shaped piece are based on the size of the smallest cube that could contain the piece when placed in a stable position for processing. The dimensions of other pieces are those of the largest surface area of another surface area that faces up when the piece is oriented for stable processing.

2.3 Dimensions and Weight

All pieces are subject to these size and weight limits:

a. The two horizontal dimensions (length and width) must be no less than 3.5 by 5 inches but no more than 12 by 15.5 inches.

b. The vertical dimension (thickness) must be no more than 8 inches but:

(1) More than 0.25 inch if the horizontal dimensions are 6.125 by 11.5 inches or less; or

(2) At least 0.01 inch if the horizontal dimensions are more than 6.125 by 11.5 inches.

c. The maximum weight of a piece must be no more than 20 pounds.

3.0 BARCODE CHARACTERISTICS**3.1 Basic Standards**

Every addressed piece mailed at the automation small parcel rates must bear the correct 6-digit barcode (a 5-digit ZIP Code and a 1-digit verifier character) in Interleaved 2 of 5, Code 39, or Code 128 format. Technical specifications for these three barcode formats appear in Uniform Symbology Specification (USS) documents USS-I2/5, USS-39, and USS-128, respectively, available from Automatic Identification Manufacturers (AIM), Material Handling Institute, Inc., 1326 Freeport Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15238-3131. Only one 6-digit barcode ending in a "9" character may appear on the mailpiece. The barcode must be located as specified in 4.1. No printing may appear in an area 0.125 inch above, below, and on either side of the barcode, regardless of location.

3.2 Dimensions

Narrow bars and spaces must be at least 0.013 inch wide; wide bars and spaces, at least 0.030 inch wide. All bars must be at least 0.75 inch high. The gap between characters must equal the narrow bar width if Code 39 is used.

The ratio of wide to narrow bar width may be in one of two ranges:

a. If only one 6-digit barcode appears on the address side of the mailpiece, the ratio must be between 1.9:1 and 3.2:1, inclusive, for the Interleaved 2 of 5 and Code 39 formats.

b. If more than one 6-digit barcode appears on the address side of the mailpiece, the ratio must be between 1.9:1 and 2.2:1, inclusive, regardless of barcode format.

3.3 Verifier

The verifier character must be the last digit of the 6-digit barcode. The correct verifier digit is always 9. The verifier appears only as part of the barcode and is not printed as part of the human-readable ZIP Code.

3.4 Reflectance

When measured in the red spectrum (633 nanometers \pm 5%) by a USPS or USPS-licensed reflectance meter, the minimum white bar (space) reflectance (Rs) must be 25%, and the maximum black bar reflectance (Rb) must be less than 30%. The minimum print reflectance difference (Rs-Rb) is 35%.

4.0 ADDRESS INFORMATION

4.1 Address

The address and barcode must be on the mailpiece side with the largest surface area, except that the address and barcode must be on the top surface of the mailpiece when its shape requires specific orientation for stability during automated processing. The delivery address and/or the barcode may be printed on an attachment or on an enclosure in a window envelope, subject to the reflectance standards in 3.4.

4.2 Numeric Barcode

In addition to the ZIP Code or ZIP+4 code included in the delivery address, human-readable characters representing the numeric equivalent of the barcode (but omitting the verifier character), preceded by the word "ZIP," must be printed near the barcode but outside the barcode clear zone in a type size equal to or larger than that used in the delivery address.

4.3 Address Quality

Effective January 1, 1997, addresses appearing on all pieces claimed at automation rates must be updated within 6 months before the mailing date by a USPS-approved address update tool (e.g., the "Address Correction Endorsement," ACS, or NCOA). Mailers must certify that this standard has been met when the corresponding mail is presented to the USPS. This standard applies to each address individually, not to a specific list or mailing. If a USPS-approved address update tool is used, a valid update is obtained regardless of the class of mail on which the address is placed. An address meeting this standard may be used in mailings at any other rate to which the standard applies throughout the 6-month period following its most recent update.

5.0 MAIL PREPARATION

The standards in 5.0 apply exclusively to pieces claimed at the experimental automation rates for First-Class and Priority Mail small parcels. Pieces are subject to the basic eligibility standards in E100 applicable to First-Class or Priority Mail and the general standards in M010, M020, and M030. Mail may be deposited at an eligible entry post office, regardless of destination. No packaging is required or

permitted. No sortation or package labeling is required. First-Class pieces must be marked "EX-AUTO" and either "First-Class" or "Priority Mail," as appropriate. Pieces must be prepared in sacks or other containers labeled as directed by the test site plant manager. Use the city/state/ZIP for that facility on Line 1. For Line 2, use FCM PP BC WKG; if required by the plant manager, the applicable processing code must be right-justified on Line 2 under the ZIP Code on Line 1.

6.0 POSTAGE PAYMENT AND DOCUMENTATION

Full postage must be affixed to each piece by meter or precanceled stamps, or paid by permit imprint, under an authorization issued by the entry post office (which must be an eligible facility listed in 1.4); plant-verified and other forms of drop shipment may not be used to deposit mail at an authorized entry post office. A complete, signed postage statement, using the correct USPS form or an approved facsimile, must accompany each mailing. No other documentation is required.

7.0 RATES AND FEES

7.1 First-Class Mail

First-Class Mail weighing 1 ounce or less may be subject to a nonstandard surcharge under E100. Pieces weighing 11 ounces or less not mailed as Priority Mail:

Weight Increment	Rate
First ounce or fraction of an ounce ..	\$0.28
Each additional ounce or fraction of an ounce	0.23

7.2 Priority Mail

Single-piece Priority Mail rates for barcoded small parcels:

Weight Not Over (pounds) ^{2,3}	Zone ¹					
	L, 1, 2 & 3	4	5	6	7	8
1	2.96	2.96	2.96	2.96	2.96	2.96
2	2.96	2.96	2.96	2.96	2.96	2.96
3	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96	3.96
4	4.96	4.96	4.96	4.96	4.96	4.96
5	5.96	5.96	5.96	5.96	5.96	5.96
6	6.31	6.86	7.06	7.16	7.76	7.96
7	6.61	7.46	8.06	8.36	9.16	9.76
8	6.91	7.96	8.96	9.46	10.36	11.56
9	7.36	8.56	9.76	10.56	11.26	12.96
10	7.76	9.26	10.51	11.36	12.11	14.01
11	8.21	9.86	11.31	12.16	12.96	15.06
12	8.66	10.51	12.06	12.96	13.86	16.11
13	9.06	11.16	12.76	13.76	14.71	17.16
14	9.51	11.81	13.56	14.51	15.56	18.21
15	9.96	12.41	14.31	15.31	16.46	19.26
16	10.36	13.11	15.01	16.11	17.31	20.31
17	10.81	13.71	15.76	16.91	18.16	21.36
18	11.26	14.31	16.46	17.71	19.01	22.41

Weight Not Over (pounds) ^{2 3}	Zone ¹					
	L, 1, 2 & 3	4	5	6	7	8
19	11.66	15.01	17.21	18.51	19.91	23.46
20	12.11	15.61	17.91	19.26	20.76	24.51

¹ Add \$4.95 for each pickup stop.

² The 2-pound rate is charged for matter sent in a "flat rate" envelope provided by the USPS.

³ Parcels weighing less than 15 pounds but measuring more than 84 inches in length and girth combined are charged a minimum rate equal to that for a 15-pound parcel for the zone to which addressed.

A transmittal letter making these changes in the pages of the Domestic Mail Manual will be published and will

be transmitted to subscribers automatically. Notice of issuance will be

published in the Federal Register as provided by 39 CFR 111.3.

Stanley F. Mires,

Chief Counsel, Legislative.

[FR Doc. 96-9594 Filed 4-17-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7710-12-P

POSTAL SERVICE**Changes in Domestic Mail Classifications and Rates**

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Notice of implementation of changes to the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and accompanying rate changes.

SUMMARY: This notice sets forth the changes to the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and the accompanying rate changes to be implemented as a result of the Decision of the Governors of the United States Postal Service on the Recommended Decision of the Postal Rate Commission on the Experimental First-Class and Priority Mail Small Parcel Automation Rate Category, Docket No. MC96-1. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 28, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan M. Duchek, (202) 268-2990.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 19, 1995, pursuant to its authority under 39 U.S.C. 3621 *et seq.*, the Postal Service filed with the Postal Rate Commission (PRC) a request for a recommended decision on an experimental rate category for specific types of barcoded First-Class and Priority Mail. The PRC designated the filing as Docket No. MC96-1. The PRC published a notice of the filing, with a description of the Postal Service's proposals, on December 27, 1995, in the Federal Register (60 FR 66999-67000).

The Postal Service's Request to the PRC proposed that the Postal Service be permitted to establish automation rate categories and 4-cent per piece discounts for certain bulk barcoded First-Class and Priority Mail small parcels entered for processing at three test sites on a 2-year experimental basis. Eligible parcels would be processed on small parcel and bundle sorters (SPBSs) equipped with barcode scanners. Currently, such SPBSs are installed at only three postal facilities: the Southeastern, PA, Processing and Distribution Center (P&DC); the Philadelphia, PA, Airport Mail Center (AMC); and the St. Petersburg, FL, P&DC. These facilities will be the test sites for the experiment.

The goals of the Postal Service in requesting and conducting the experiment are (1) to determine whether it is feasible to offer an automation discount for First-Class and Priority Mail small parcels; (2) to gauge mailer interest and acceptance of this type of discount; and (3) to confirm that the use of barcode scanners with the SPBS provides significant productivity enhancements when comparing the

automated processing of barcoded small parcels with the manual keying of the same or similar pieces. The 4-cent discount is based on the estimated cost difference between keying a nonbarcoded parcel and scanning a barcoded parcel.

Pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3624, the PRC on March 13, 1996, issued to the Governors of the Postal Service its Recommended Decision on the Postal Service's Request. The PRC recommendation substantially emulated the mail classification structure and rates requested by the Postal Service. After reviewing the PRC's Recommended Decision and its consequences for the Postal Service and postal customers, the Governors, pursuant to 39 U.S.C. 3625, approved the PRC's recommendations on April 1, 1996. Decision of the Governors of the United States Postal Service on the Recommended Decision of the Postal Rate Commission on the Experimental First-Class and Priority Mail Small Parcel Automation Rate Category, Docket No. MC96-1. The final Domestic Mail Classification Schedule and Rate Schedule changes approved by the Governors are set forth below.

Also, on April 1, 1996, the Board of Governors of the Postal Service, pursuant to their authority under 39 U.S.C. 3625(f), determined to implement the rate and classification changes approved by the Governors effective at 12:01 a.m. on April 28, 1996 (Resolution No. 96-3). Attachment A to the Decision of the Governors contained changes to the existing Domestic Classification Schedule and its attendant rate schedules. Attachment B to the Decision of the Governors contained changes to the Domestic Classification Schedule and its attendant rate schedules consistent with implementation of Docket No. MC95-1, classification reform. In accordance with Resolution 96-3, the changes set forth in Attachment A will take effect at 12:01 a.m. on April 28, 1996, to be superseded by the changes set forth in Attachment B, which will take effect at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 1996. Implementing regulations also become effective at 12:01 a.m. on April 28, 1996, as noted elsewhere in this issue.

Attachment A—Changes From Decision of the Governors of the United States Postal Service on the Recommended Decision of the Postal Rate Commission on the Experimental First-Class and Priority Mail Small Parcel Automation Rate Category, Docket No. MC96-1 (effective at 12:01 a.m. on April 28, 1996)

April 1, 1996.

Changes to the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule

Amend Classification Schedule 100, First-Class Mail, by inserting the italicized text, as follows:

100.020 Regular Mail

Regular First-Class Mail consists of mailable matter posted at First-Class Mail regular rates, weighing 11 ounces or less, and not mailed or eligible for mailing under sections 100.0201, 100.0203, 100.0204, 100.0205, 100.0206, 100.0207, 100.021, 100.0211, or 100.023.

100.0207 Prebarcoded Parcels

Prebarcoded First-Class Mail parcels consist of properly prepared First-Class Mail individual, nonpresorted parcels which are presented in mailings of 50 or more pieces; bear a barcode as prescribed by the Postal Service; meet the parcel machinability and address readability specifications prescribed by the Postal Service; and are presented for mailing in a manner which does not require cancellation.

This provision is applicable only to mailings entered for processing at no more than six facilities designated by the Postal Service. This provision expires at 12:01 a.m. on April 28, 1998.

100.0233 Prebarcoded Priority Mail Parcels

Prebarcoded Priority Mail parcels consist of properly prepared Priority Mail individual, nonpresorted parcels which are presented in mailings of 50 or more pieces; bear a barcode as prescribed by the Postal Service; meet the parcel machinability and address readability specifications prescribed by the Postal Service; and are presented for mailing in a manner which does not require cancellation.

This provision is applicable only to mailings entered for processing at no more than six facilities designated by the Postal Service. This provision expires at 12:01 a.m. on April 28, 1998.

100.047 Pieces mailed under sections 100.0202, 100.0203, 100.0204, 100.0205, 100.0206, 100.0207, 100.0211, and 100.023 must be prepared as follows:

[No changes are proposed for subsections a. or b. of 100.047.]

c. Pieces not within the same postage increment may be mailed at ZIP+4 rate category or pre-barcoded presorted mail rates or presorted pre-barcoded flat rates or prebarcoded First-Class Mail parcel

rates or prebarcoded Priority Mail parcel rates only when specific methods approved by the Postal Service for ascertaining and verifying postage are followed.

[No changes are proposed for subsection d. of 100.047.]

Changes to Domestic Postage Rates

Amend Rate Schedule 100, First-Class Mail, by inserting the italicized portions, as follows:

RATE SCHEDULE 100—FIRST-CLASS MAIL

Mail Type	Postage Rate Unit	Rate (cents) ¹
Letters		
Nonpresort	First ounce
Basic	32.0
ZIP + 4 Letters	^{2,3} 30.5
Pre-barcoded flats	⁹ 29.5
Pre-barcoded parcels	(experimental)	¹⁰ 28.0
Nonstandard Surcharge	11.0
Presort ⁵	Additional ounce	⁴ 23.0
3 and 5 digit ⁶	First ounce
Basic	27.4
ZIP + 4 Letters	³ 26.7
Pre-barcoded Letters	26.4
3 digit
Pre-barcoded Letters	25.8
5 digit
Pre-barcoded flats	25.8
3/5 Digit
Carrier route ⁷	25.4
Nonstandard surcharge	5.0
Cards		
Nonpresort.	Additional ounce	⁴ 23.0
Basic	20.0
ZIP + 4	^{2,3} 18.9
Pre-barcoded	⁸ 18.6
Presort
3 and 5 digit ⁶
Basic	17.9
ZIP + 4	³ 17.3
Pre-barcoded—3 digit	17.0
Pre-barcoded—5 digit	16.3
Carrier Route ⁷	16.0

Notes:

¹ The 5-digit presort rate applies only to each piece of a group of ten or more pieces destined for the same 5-Digit ZIP Code or each piece of a group of 50 or more pieces destined for the same 3-Digit ZIP Code. The lower carrier route rate applies only to mail presorted to carrier route, with a minimum of 10 pieces per route. A mailing fee of \$85.00 must be paid once each year at each office of mailing by any person who mails presorted First-Class Mail. The fee for mailers allows usage of either or both of these rates.

² Nonpresorted ZIP + 4 mail must be properly prepared and submitted in mailings of at least 250 pieces.

³ ZIP + 4 mail must be properly prepared and submitted in a single mailing of at least 250 pieces, except where the presort minimum of 500 applies. ZIP + 4 rates are not available for carrier route presort mail.

⁴ Rate applies through 11 ounces. Heavier pieces are subject to Priority Mail rates.

⁵ For presorted mailings weighing more than 2 ounces, subtract 4.6 cents per piece.

⁶ Mail presorted to ZIP Code and prepared in mailings of 500 pieces or more as prescribed by Postal Service.

⁷ Mail presorted to carrier route and prepared in mailings of 500 pieces or more as prescribed by the Postal Service.

⁸ Nonpresorted and pre-barcoded cards must be properly prepared and submitted in mailings of at least 250 pieces.

⁹ Nonpresorted pre-barcoded flat mail must be properly prepared and submitted in mailings of at least 250 pieces.

¹⁰ Nonpresorted pre-barcoded parcels must be properly prepared and submitted in mailings of at least 50 pieces.

Amend Rate Schedule 103, Priority Mail, by inserting the italicized portions, as follows:

RATE SCHEDULE 103—PRIORITY MAIL *

[Dollars]

Weight not Exceeding (Pounds)	L,1,2,3	4	5	6	7	8
1	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00

RATE SCHEDULE 103—PRIORITY MAIL*—Continued

[Dollars]

Weight not Exceeding (Pounds)	L,1,2,3	4	5	6	7	8
2	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
3	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
5	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
6	6.35	6.90	7.10	7.20	7.80	8.00
7	6.65	7.50	8.10	8.40	9.20	9.80
8	6.95	8.00	9.00	9.50	10.40	11.60
9	7.40	8.60	9.80	10.60	11.30	13.00
10	7.80	9.30	10.55	11.40	12.15	14.05
11	8.25	9.90	11.35	12.20	13.00	15.10
12	8.70	10.55	12.10	13.00	13.90	16.15
13	9.10	11.20	12.80	13.80	14.75	17.20
14	9.55	11.85	13.60	14.55	15.60	18.25
15	10.00	12.45	14.35	15.35	16.50	19.30
16	10.40	13.15	15.05	16.15	17.35	20.35
17	10.85	13.75	15.80	16.95	18.20	21.40
18	11.30	14.35	16.50	17.75	19.05	22.45
19	11.70	15.05	17.25	18.55	19.95	23.50
20	12.15	15.65	17.95	19.30	20.80	24.55
21	12.60	16.35	18.70	20.10	21.65	25.60
22	13.00	16.95	19.40	20.90	22.55	26.65
23	13.45	17.55	20.15	21.70	23.40	27.70
24	13.85	18.25	20.85	22.50	24.25	28.75
25	14.30	18.85	21.60	23.25	25.15	29.85
26	14.75	19.50	22.30	24.05	26.00	30.90
27	15.15	20.15	23.00	24.85	26.85	31.95
28	15.60	20.80	23.75	25.65	27.70	33.00
29	16.05	21.40	24.45	26.45	28.60	34.05
30	16.45	22.10	25.20	27.20	29.45	35.10
31	16.90	22.70	25.90	28.00	30.30	36.15
32	17.35	23.40	26.65	28.80	31.20	37.20
33	17.75	24.00	27.35	29.60	32.05	38.25
34	18.20	24.60	28.10	30.40	32.90	39.30
35	18.60	25.30	28.80	31.20	33.75	40.35
36	19.05	25.90	29.55	31.95	34.65	41.40
37	19.50	26.55	30.25	32.75	35.50	42.45
38	19.90	27.20	31.00	33.55	36.35	43.50
39	20.35	27.80	31.70	34.35	37.25	44.55
40	20.80	28.45	32.40	35.15	38.10	45.60
41	21.20	29.10	33.15	35.90	38.95	46.65
42	21.65	29.75	33.85	36.70	39.85	47.70
43	22.10	30.35	34.60	37.50	40.70	48.80
44	22.50	31.05	35.30	38.30	41.55	49.85
45	22.95	31.65	36.05	39.10	42.40	50.90
46	23.35	32.35	36.75	39.85	43.30	51.95
47	23.80	32.95	37.50	40.65	44.15	53.00
48	24.25	33.55	38.20	41.45	45.00	54.05
49	24.65	34.25	38.95	42.25	45.90	55.10
50	25.10	34.85	39.65	43.05	46.75	56.15
51	25.55	35.50	40.35	43.85	47.60	57.20
52	25.95	36.15	41.10	44.60	48.50	58.25
53	26.40	36.80	41.80	45.40	49.35	59.30
54	26.85	37.40	42.55	46.20	50.20	60.35
55	27.25	38.05	43.25	47.00	51.05	61.40
56	27.70	38.70	44.00	47.80	51.95	62.45
57	28.10	39.35	44.70	48.55	52.80	63.50
58	28.55	40.00	45.45	49.35	53.65	64.55
59	29.00	40.60	46.15	50.15	54.55	65.60
60	29.40	41.30	46.90	50.95	55.40	66.65
61	29.85	41.90	47.60	51.75	56.25	67.75
62	30.30	42.50	48.35	52.50	57.10	68.80
63	30.70	43.20	49.05	53.30	58.00	69.85
64	31.15	43.80	49.75	54.10	58.85	70.90
65	31.60	44.45	50.50	54.90	59.70	71.95
66	32.00	45.10	51.20	55.70	60.60	73.00
67	32.45	45.75	51.95	56.50	61.45	74.05
68	32.90	46.35	52.65	57.25	62.30	75.10
69	33.30	47.05	53.40	58.05	63.20	76.15
70	33.75	47.65	54.10	58.85	64.05	77.20

*Notes:

¹ The 2 pound rate is charged for matter sent in a "flat rate" envelope provided by the Postal Service.

² Add \$4.95 for each pickup stop.

³ Pieces presented in mailings of at least 300 pieces and meeting applicable Postal Service regulations for presorted Priority Mail receive the 11 cents per-piece discount.

⁴ Exception: Parcels weighing less than 15 pounds, measuring over 84 inches in length and girth combined, are chargeable with a minimum rate equal to that for a 15-pound parcel for the zone to which addressed.

⁵ Pieces presented in mailings of at least 50 pieces and meeting applicable Postal Service regulations for pre-barcoded Priority Mail parcels receive a discount of 4 cents per piece (experimental).

Attachment B Changes From Decision of the Governors of the United States Postal Service on the Recommended Decision of the Postal Rate Commission on the Experimental First-Class and Priority Mail Small Parcel Automation Rate Category, Docket No. MC96-1 (effective at 12:01 a.m. on July 1, 1996)

Changes to the Domestic Mail Classification Schedule

Amend First-Class Mail Classification Schedule, by inserting the italicized text, as follows:

Retitle 221.3 as follows:

221.3 Automation Rate Categories—Letters and Flats

Add:

221.40 Automation Rate Category—Parcels

221.41 Prebarcoded Parcel Rate Category. The prebarcoded parcel rate category applies to Letters and Sealed Parcels subclass nonpresorted mail that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 50 pieces;

b. Bears a barcode as prescribed by the Postal Service;

c. Is marked and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

d. Meets the machinability, addressing, barcoding, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

This provision is applicable only to mailings entered for processing at no more than six facilities designated by the Postal Service. This provision expires at 12:01 a.m. on April 28, 1998.

223.4 Prebarcoded Priority Mail Parcel Rate Category. The prebarcoded Priority Mail Parcel rate category

applies to Priority Mail subclass nonpresorted mail that:

a. Is prepared in a mailing of at least 50 pieces;

b. Bears a barcode as prescribed by the Postal Service;

c. Is marked and presented as prescribed by the Postal Service; and

d. Meets the machinability, addressing, barcoding, and other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

This provision is applicable only to mailings entered for processing at no more than six facilities designated by the Postal Service. This provision expires at 12:01 a.m. on April 28, 1998.

[Renumber 223.4-6 as 5-7.]

Changes to Domestic Postage Rates

Amend First-Class Mail, Rate Schedule 221, Letters and Sealed Parcels, by inserting the italicized portions, as follows:

FIRST-CLASS MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 221—LETTERS AND SEALED PARCELS

Postage Rate Unit	Rate/(cents)
Letters & Sealed Parcels	
Regular	
Single Piece: First ounce	32.0
Presort ¹	29.5
<i>Pre-barcoded Parcels (experimental) ¹¹</i>	28.0
Additional Ounce	² 23.0
Nonstandard Surcharge	
Single Piece	11.0
Presort	5.0
Automation—Presort ¹	
Letters ³	
Basic Presort ⁴	26.1
3-Digit Presort ⁵	25.4
5-Digit Presort ⁶	23.8
Carrier Route Presort ⁷	23.0
Flats ⁸	
Basic Presort ⁹	29.0
3/5-Digit Presort ¹⁰	27.0
Additional Ounce	² 23.0
Nonstandard Surcharge	5.0

Notes:

¹ A mailing fee of \$85.00 must be paid once each year at each office of mailing by any person who mails other than Single Piece First-Class Mail. Payment of the fee allows the mailer to mail at any First-Class rate. For presorted mailings weighing more than 2 ounces, subtract 4.6 cents per piece.

² Rate applies through 11 ounces. Heavier pieces are subject to Priority Mail rates.

³ Rates apply to bulk-entered mailings of at least 500 letter-size pieces, which must be delivery point barcoded and meet other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

⁴ Rate applies to letter-size Automation-Presort category mail not mailed at 3-Digit, 5-Digit, or Carrier Route rates.

⁵ Rate applies to letter-size Automation-Presort category mail presorted to single or multiple three-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

⁶ Rate applies to letter-size Automation-Presort category mail presorted to single or multiple five-digit ZIP Code destinations as prescribed by the Postal Service.

⁷ Rate applies to letter-size Automation-Presort category mail presorted to carrier routes specified by the Postal Service.

⁸ Rates apply to bulk-entered mailings of at least 500 flat-size pieces, each of which must be delivery-point barcoded or bear a ZIP+4 barcode, and must meet other preparation requirements prescribed by the Postal Service.

⁹ Rate applies to flat-size Automation-Presort category mail not mailed at the 3/5-Digit rate.

¹⁰ Rate applies to flat-size Automation-Presort category mail presorted to single or multiple three- and five-digit ZIP Code destinations as specified by the Postal Service.

¹¹ Nonpresorted pre-barcode parcels must be properly prepared and submitted in mailings of at least 50 pieces.

Amend First-Class Mail, Rate inserting the italicized portions, as
Schedule 223, Priority Mail Subclass, by follows:

FIRST-CLASS MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 223—PRIORITY MAIL SUBCLASS *

[Dollars]

Weight not Exceeding (Pounds)	L,1,2,3	4	5	6	7	8
1	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
2	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.00
3	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00	4.00
4	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
5	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	6.00
6	6.35	6.90	7.10	7.20	7.80	8.00
7	6.65	7.50	8.10	8.40	9.20	9.80
8	6.95	8.00	9.00	9.50	10.40	11.60
9	7.40	8.60	9.80	10.60	11.30	13.00
10	7.80	9.30	10.55	11.40	12.15	14.05
11	8.25	9.90	11.35	12.20	13.00	15.10
12	8.70	10.55	12.10	13.00	13.90	16.15
13	9.10	11.20	12.80	13.80	14.75	17.20
14	9.55	11.85	13.60	14.55	15.60	18.25
15	10.00	12.45	14.35	15.35	16.50	19.30
16	10.40	13.15	15.05	16.15	17.35	20.35
17	10.85	13.75	15.80	16.95	18.20	21.40
18	11.30	14.35	16.50	17.75	19.05	22.45
19	11.70	15.05	17.25	18.55	19.95	23.50
20	12.15	15.65	17.95	19.30	20.80	24.55
21	12.60	16.35	18.70	20.10	21.65	25.60
22	13.00	16.95	19.40	20.90	22.55	26.65
23	13.45	17.55	20.15	21.70	23.40	27.70
24	13.85	18.25	20.85	22.50	24.25	28.75
25	14.30	18.85	21.60	23.25	25.15	29.85
26	14.75	19.50	22.30	24.05	26.00	30.90
27	15.15	20.15	23.00	24.85	26.85	31.95
28	15.60	20.80	23.75	25.65	27.70	33.00
29	16.05	21.40	24.45	26.45	28.60	34.05
30	16.45	22.10	25.20	27.20	29.45	35.10
31	16.90	22.70	25.90	28.00	30.30	36.15
32	17.35	23.40	26.65	28.80	31.20	37.20
33	17.75	24.00	27.35	29.60	32.05	38.25
34	18.20	24.60	28.10	30.40	32.90	39.30
35	18.60	25.30	28.80	31.20	33.75	40.35
36	19.05	25.90	29.55	31.95	34.65	41.40
37	19.50	26.55	30.25	32.75	35.50	42.45
38	19.90	27.20	31.00	33.55	36.35	43.50
39	20.35	27.80	31.70	34.35	37.25	44.55
40	20.80	28.45	32.40	35.15	38.10	45.60
41	21.20	29.10	33.15	35.90	38.95	46.65
42	21.65	29.75	33.85	36.70	39.85	47.70
43	22.10	30.35	34.60	37.50	40.70	48.80
44	22.50	31.05	35.30	38.30	41.55	49.85
45	22.95	31.65	36.05	39.10	42.40	50.90
46	23.35	32.35	36.75	39.85	43.30	51.95
47	23.80	32.95	37.50	40.65	44.15	53.00
48	24.25	33.55	38.20	41.45	45.00	54.05
49	24.65	34.25	38.95	42.25	45.90	55.10
50	25.10	34.85	39.65	43.05	46.75	56.15
51	25.55	35.50	40.35	43.85	47.60	57.20
52	25.95	36.15	41.10	44.60	48.50	58.25
53	26.40	36.80	41.80	45.40	49.35	59.30
54	26.85	37.40	42.55	46.20	50.20	60.35
55	27.25	38.05	43.25	47.00	51.05	61.40
56	27.70	38.70	44.00	47.80	51.95	62.45
57	28.10	39.35	44.70	48.55	52.80	63.50
58	28.55	40.00	45.45	49.35	53.65	64.55
59	29.00	40.60	46.15	50.15	54.55	65.60
60	29.40	41.30	46.90	50.95	55.40	66.65
61	29.85	41.90	47.60	51.75	56.25	67.75
62	30.30	42.50	48.35	52.50	57.10	68.80
63	30.70	43.20	49.05	53.30	58.00	69.85

FIRST-CLASS MAIL RATE SCHEDULE 223—PRIORITY MAIL SUBCLASS*—Continued
[Dollars]

Weight not Exceeding (Pounds)	L,1,2,3	4	5	6	7	8
64	31.15	43.80	49.75	54.10	58.85	70.90
65	31.60	44.45	50.50	54.90	59.70	71.95
66	32.00	45.10	51.20	55.70	60.60	73.00
67	32.45	45.75	51.95	56.50	61.45	74.05
68	32.90	46.35	52.65	57.25	62.30	75.10
69	33.30	47.05	53.40	58.05	63.20	76.15
70	33.75	47.65	54.10	58.85	64.05	77.20

*** Notes:**

¹ The 2 pound rate is charged for matter sent in a "flat rate" envelope provided by the Postal Service.

² Add \$4.95 for each pickup stop.

³ Pieces presented in mailings of at least 300 pieces and meeting applicable Postal Service regulations for presorted Priority Mail receive the 11 cents per-piece discount.

⁴ Exception: Parcels weighing less than 15 pounds, measuring over 84 inches in length and girth combined, are chargeable with a minimum rate equal to that for a 15-pound parcel for the zone to which addressed.

⁵ Pieces presented in mailings of at least 50 pieces and meeting applicable Postal Service regulations for pre-barcode Priority Mail parcels receive a discount of 4 cents per piece (experimental).

Stanley F. Mires,

Chief Counsel, Legislative.

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